

ticular. In a speech given in Chicago on September 23, 1967, Mr. Stetler stated that Mr. Haddad's testimony was false, and asked, "Why did the Senate witness mislead the Nelson subcommittee?" Mr. Stetler's criticism was directed in particular to the alleged excessively high prices paid by Fulton County (Atlanta), Ga., for various drug products. Although the implication in Mr. Stetler's speech was that there was an attempt to intentionally mislead the committee on the part of Mr. Haddad, it is clear to me that no such deliberate falsification was intended.

Mr. Martin Gersten, acting commissioner, New York City Department of Purchases, had written to Fulton County requesting the prices paid by the county for certain drugs. The data requested was furnished in writing by Mr. F. T. Farran, purchasing agent for Fulton County, to Mr. Gersten. This information was then submitted to the committee by Mr. Haddad exactly as he received it from the New York City Department of Purchases. I will submit for the record the letter requesting price data sent by the New York Department of Purchases to Fulton County as well as Fulton County's response. It is clear from this correspondence that there was no intent by Mr. Haddad or anyone else to mislead the subcommittee. In fact, our own cross checking of the New York City survey indicated that it was correct with a few minor exceptions which do not in any way invalidate the general import of the survey.

However, since Mr. Stetler's criticisms may have cast doubt upon the general validity of our record in the minds of some people I asked my staff to conduct a similar survey of drug purchasing by a representative group of cities and counties.

Letters were mailed from my office to a total of 77 cities and counties with public hospitals—other than those cities surveyed by New York City—using a list provided by the National League of Cities. In other words, I want to make it clear that none of these cities included in this survey were surveyed by the New York City Department of Purchase, and I used a list provided by the National League of Cities. A total of 38 cities or counties responded. Of these, only 29 purchased a sufficient number of drugs, or in sufficient quantities, to make their price figures meaningful. The Defense Supply Agency and the Veterans' Administration are also included, as well as prices charged to the retail pharmacies.

I also requested similar data from Fulton County to verify the information given to the committee. The reply received by me from Fulton County did indicate that the most appropriate source for information on Atlanta's drug purchases would have been Grady Memorial Hospital, not the county, since it was the largest purchaser in the county. The request for price by Mr. Gersten in New York City was made in good faith—a misunderstanding clouded the interpretation of Fulton County's response. I will submit for the record the letter sent to me by the Fulton County Board of County Commissioners.

The 29 cities included in this survey by my office represent a cross section of cities from all parts of the Nation. It is more extensive than the New York survey, and, furthermore, it strongly reinforces the